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Concl.

6 priority providing means of correlating each coded picture
7 information with a priority identifier, and
8 transmission control means of transmitting or recording the coded
9 picture information with the priority identifier; and
10 a picture decoding apparatus including reception control means of
11 receiving or reading the coded picture information,
12 picture decoding means of decoding the coded picture information
13 with the priority identifier,
14 wherein said priority identifier is used by the picture decoding
15 apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be
16 processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture
17 decoding apparatus, and said priority identifier is used independently of the
18 picture identifier and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B
19 picture.

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D2

1 SUBES 20. (Twice Amended) A picture coding apparatus comprising:

2 picture coding means of coding picture information and providing
3 a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

4 priority providing means of correlating each coded picture
5 information with a priority identifier, and

6 transmission control means of transmitting or recording the coded
7 picture information with the priority identifier to a picture decoding apparatus,

8 wherein said priority identifier is used by the picture decoding
9 apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be
10 processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture
11 decoding apparatus, and said priority identifier is used independently of the
12 picture identifier and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B
13 picture.

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21. (Twice Amended) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

reception control means of receiving or reading coded picture information with a priority identifier transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

picture decoding means of decoding the coded picture information with the priority identifier,

wherein said priority identifier is used by the picture decoding apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and said priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifier and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.

Please add the following new claims:

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24. (Newly Added) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving (a) coded pictures transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and (b) a priority level associated with each coded picture, wherein the priority level is obtained from a listing of more than two priority levels arranged in order of importance,

a processor for processing the coded pictures, and

output means of delivering the processed pictures,

wherein the processor processes a picture or discards a picture according to a load or processing capacity of the processor, deciding to process or discard the picture based on its level of importance from the more than two priority levels.

25. (Newly Added) A method of processing pictures from a coding apparatus to a decoding apparatus comprising the steps of:

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- 3 (a) receiving from the coding apparatus (i) coded I, P and B
4 pictures and (ii) a picture identifier for identifying each picture as an I, P or B
5 picture;
- 6 (b) receiving from the coding apparatus a priority identifier
7 associated with each coded I, P or B picture, the priority identifier derived from
8 a listing of priority levels arranged in order of importance;
- 9 (c) determining at the decoding apparatus a processing load or a
10 processing capacity of the decoding apparatus;
- 11 (d) processing or discarding a received coded picture according
12 to the determined processing load or processing capacity of the decoding
13 apparatus in step (c) and the received priority identifier,
- 14 wherein the received coded picture is processed or discarded based
15 on its level of importance derived from the listing arranged in order of
16 importance, and independently of the picture identifier, and independently of
17 whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.
- 1 26. (Newly Added) The method of claim 25 in which the
2 priority identifier received in step (b) is derived from a listing of more than two
3 priority levels arranged in order of importance.
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